

Jim Henson's™
THE STORYTELLER™
Tale One of Four
Witches



ARCHAIA

S.M. VIDAURRI



the
MAGIC SWAN GOOSE
and the **LORD OF THE FOREST**

Written, Illustrated & Lettered by

S.M. Vidauri

Cover by

S.M. Vidauri

Variant Cover by

Missy Pena

Designer

Tillian Crab

Assistant Editor

Cameron Chittock

Editor

Rebecca Taylor

Special Thanks to Brian Henson, Lisa Henson, Jim Formanek, Nicole Goldman, Maryanne Pittman, Carla DellaVedova, Justin Hilden, Jill Peterson, Karen Falk, and the entire Jim Henson Company team.

Jim Henson's™
THE
STORYTELLER™
Witches



ARCHAIA™

Jim Henson
THE JIM HENSON COMPANY

JIM HENSON'S THE STORYTELLER: WITCHES No. 4 (of 4), September 2014. Published by Archaia, a division of Boom! Entertainment, Inc., 1070 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 400, Los Angeles, CA 90017-9199. © 2014 The Jim Henson Company. JIM HENSON'S mark & logo, THE STORYTELLER mark & logo, and all related characters and elements are trademarks of The Jim Henson Company. All Rights Reserved. Archaia™ and the Archaia logo are trademarks of Boom! Entertainment, Inc., registered in various countries and categories. All characters, events, and institutions depicted herein are fictional. Any similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, events, and/or institutions in this publication to actual names, characters, and persons, whether living or dead, events, and/or institutions is unintended and purely coincidental. For information regarding the CPSIA on this printed material, call (202) 555-9696 and provide reference #RCH-37476. PRINTED IN USA.

LONG AGO

WHEN THE
SPARROWS STILL FLEW
AS THICK AS THE NIGHT,
IN A LAND SO

r e m o t e

THE KING HAD YET
TO CLAIM IT,

*there lived
a young
woman.*





ONE
NIGHT,
WHEN THE
DAWN WAS
RESTING ON THE
HORIZON,

A
HUNTER
AT THE
END
OF HIS
TREK

SAW THE
YOUNG
WOMAN
CONJURE
A SPELL.

BY ROCK.
ARROW,
AND SPEAR
THE
YOUNG WOMAN
WAS FORCED
FROM THE TOWN
AND INTO THE VERY
CENTER
OF THE FOREST
WHICH HAD
ENTRANCED
HER.

THE
WITCH
AS THEY
CALLED HER

WAS NEVER
HEARD FROM
AGAIN.

THE YEARS FLEW

AS QUICKLY AND
AS GRACEFULLY
AS THE
AUTUMN.

AND WHAT
WAS ONCE
A SMALL
TOWN BECAME
A CITY,
AND A KING
LAID HIS
CLAIM ON
THE FOREST.



A great castle
was constructed
in which the
young **KING**,
the **QUEEN**,
and their
daughter,
the **PRINCESS**,
lived.



Soon
the King
and Queen
celebrated
the birth
of a young
prince,
their heir.



On
the day
of his
son's birth,
the king
set out to
cut down
the tallest
tree
in the
forest





SO FEW
VENTURED
INTO THE
FOREST
THAT FEW,
IF ANY,
EVER SAW
THE

LORD

AND HE HAD BEGUN
TO LIVE ONLY IN

MYTHS.
SINCE
THAT TIME,
THE FOREST
HAD GROWN

DARK

THE
PEOPLE
WERE MORE
SCARED OF IT
THAN EVER.
THEY DID NOT
TRUST HOW THE
SWAYING
BRANCHES
PLAYED TRICKS
ON THEIR EYES.

HOW THE WIND
CARRIED
THEIR SONGS UNTIL
THEY FELT

E M P T Y.

MORE AND MORE
AND TOWNSFOLK BEGAN TO
WONDER IF THAT SAD, BEAUTIFUL,
LONELY VOICE WAS EVEN

THE WIND AT ALL

THE PRINCESS,

however, loved the forest,
and spent all of her time climbing
its boughs and ruining her
skirts in its mud.



And
while the
princess
loved her
parents
and brother
very much,
she did not
care for
matters
of the
court.

The STUFFY HALLS
OF THE
KINGDOM
PALED IN COMPARISON TO
THE GREAT EXPANSE OF THE FOREST



Of all the places
in the forest,
The Princess
loved most to climb
atop the stump of

The Great Tree

She could see so much
from there. One day
as she watched the
sparrows return to roost,
she was startled by the sound
of a voice approaching.
She hid in the hollow
of the great
tree.

Soul!

cursed!

Villainy!

Someone
has cut down
the
great tree!

curse
them!

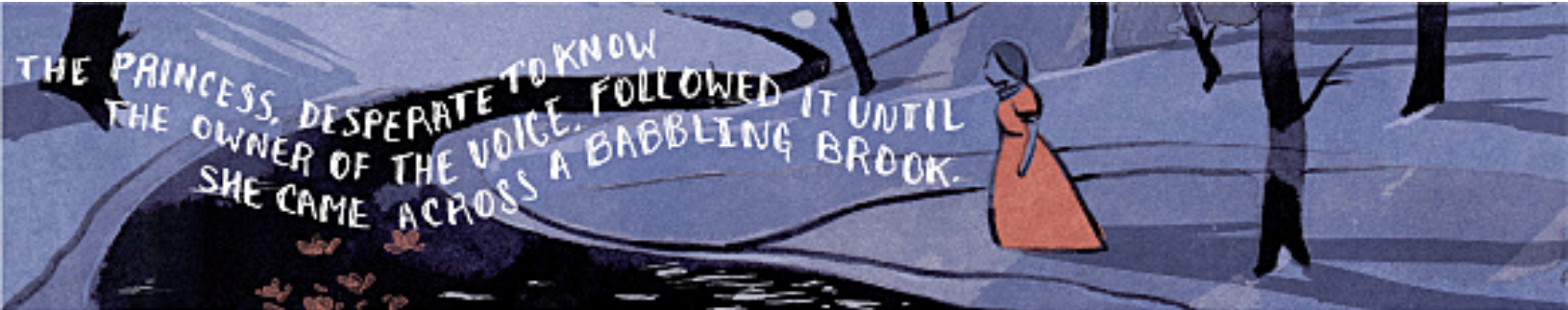
*Repeated the
thistles and nettles.*

**AND
I SHALL!**

Spoken & replied

I PUT
A CURSE ON
ANY MAN WHO
WEARS THE CROWN
MADE FROM THE

**JEWEL OF
THE FOREST!**



THE PRINCESS, DESPERATE TO KNOW
THE OWNER OF THE VOICE, FOLLOWED IT UNTIL
SHE CAME ACROSS A BABBLING BROOK.



RESTING IN THE SHALLOWS
WAS THE

WITCH.

FRIGHTENED,
THE PRINCESS
FLED.

As The years passed,
the young Princess hid
this memory away
in her mind.



Soon,
the Prince's
name day
approached,
on which
he would
be eligible
to take up his
place in court.



AND SO
A SADNESS
FELL UPON THE
KINGDOM.





FEARING
FOR HER
BROTHER'S
LIFE, THE
YOUNG
PRINCESS
WATCHED
OVER HIM.

IN THE
EARLY
LIGHT OF
THE DAWN,
SHE PRAYED
IN FRONT
OF THE
MOON
FOR HER
BROTHER'S
SAFETY.





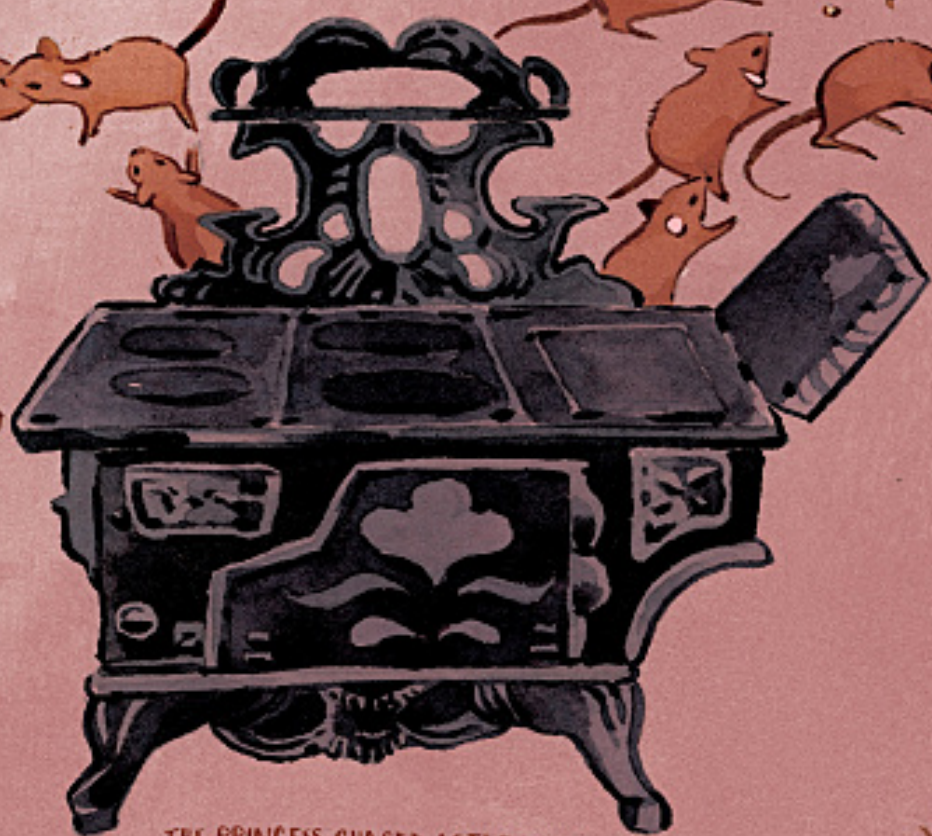
THE
PRINCESS
TRIED TO STAY AWAKE,
BUT AS SLEEP OVERTOOK HER,
A GIGANTIC

SWAN GOOSE

CAME UPON THEM
AND SNATCHED
THE YOUNG
PRINCE ~



-and his
magical
crown-
away.



THE PRINCESS CHASED AFTER THEM
AND CAME UPON AN ENORMOUS
OVEN THAT OFFERED HER PASSAGE.

EAT ITS RYE BUNS

BUT ONLY IF SHE COULD
THINKING IT A WITCH'S TRICK
THE PRINCESS REFUSED.

I don't
even eat
rye buns!

THE PRINCESS WAS
LOST IN DESPAIR
UNTIL A THOUSAND
MICE FROM THE FOREST
GATHERED AROUND
AND ATE ALL OF
THE RYE BUNS
ALLOWING
HER
TO PASS.





NEXT,
A RIVER
OF
MILK

STOOD BEFORE
THE PRINCESS
AND OFFERED
HER THE PRINCE

IF SHE
COULD
ONLY

DRINK

ITS CONTENTS.

THE
PRINCESS

WATCHED

AS A FLOCK

OF PELICANS
CAME AND DRAINED
THE RIVER



NEXT A SPINNING WHEEL,
THE SIZE OF A HOUSE, THAT
TOLD THE PRINCESS ONLY THEN,
IF SHE COULD, AND COULD SHE PASS.

BUT SUDDENLY
A SWARM OF
MAGNIFICENT
GOLDEN MOTHS
FLEW THROUGH THE
NIGHT AND
ILLUMINATED
THE THREAD.

ALLOWING
HER TO PASS.



FINALLY,
THE PRINCESS
CAME UPON
THE LORD
OF THE
FOREST

WHO HAD
SHOT THE
WITCH WITH
AN ENCHANTED
ARROW.

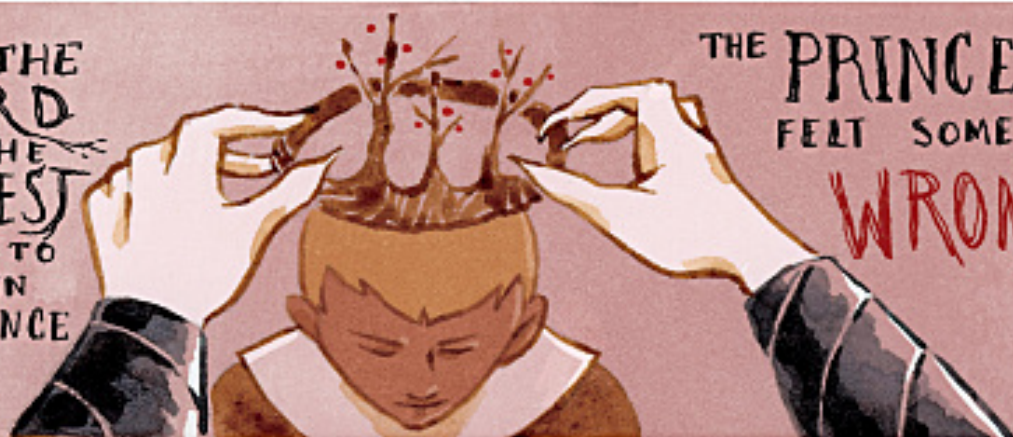
HE HANDED
THE PRINCESS
THE YOUNG PRINCE,
AND INSISTED THE
YOUNG BOY BE CROWNED
KING
THEN AND
THERE.

PRINCESS,
I KNOW YOU WELL,
YOU HAVE A GREAT
RESPECT FOR MY
FOREST.

AND SO
I HAVE SHOT DOWN
THIS WITCH
WHO WOULD STEAL
YOUR BROTHER.

LET
THE YOUNG
KING WEAR
PROUDLY MY
**JEWEL OF
THE FOREST.**

AS THE
LORD
OF THE
FOREST
BEGAN TO
CROWN
THE PRINCE



THE PRINCESS
FELT SOMETHING
WRONG.



A MEMORY
HIDDEN DEEP
CAME TO
THE SURFACE.

The
Princess
dashed
forward,
and before the
LORD OF THE FOREST
could stop her,
she threw her head
under the crown.

NO!

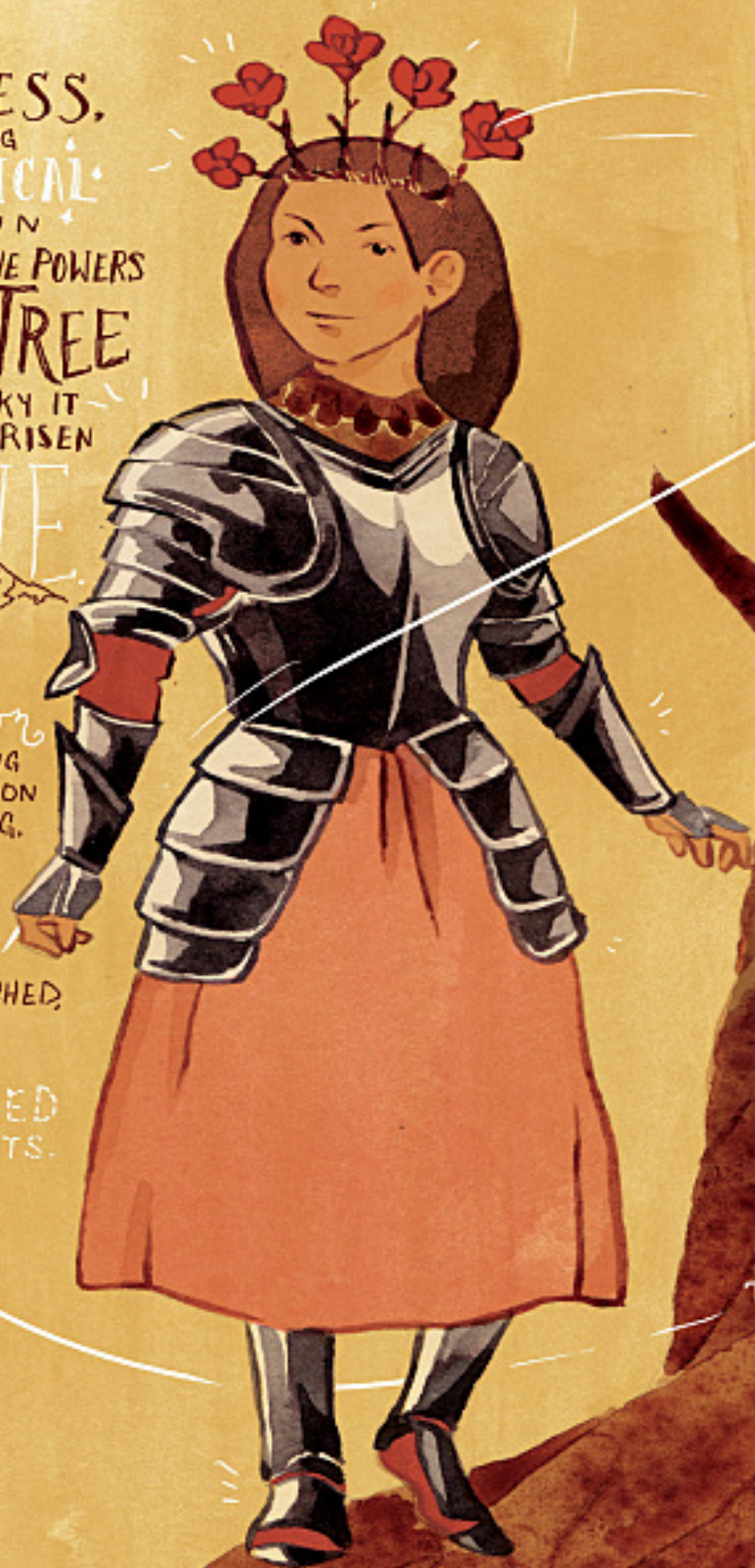


THE
PRINCESS,
WEARING
THE MAGICAL
CROWN
GAINED ALL THE POWERS
OF THE
GREAT TREE
AND THE SKY IT
HAD ONCE RISEN

ABOVE

SHE FELT
A GREAT
connection
TO THE THING
SHE HAD SAT UPON
FOR SO LONG,
WHOSE
GREAT
TRUNK
SHE HAD TOUCHED,
TO WHOM
SHE HAD
WHISPERED
HER SECRETS.

AND
SHE
REALIZED
THAT
NO ONE
WHO WOULD
CUT DOWN
SUCH A
BEAUTIFUL
THING
COULD EVER
UNDERSTAND
THE POWER
THAT IT HELD.



The Princess turned
to the LORD.

YOU
WERE THE
VOICE I HEARD
IN THE WOODS
THAT DAY.

I HAD
WONDERED
IF IT HAD EVEN
HAPPENED
AT ALL—

BUT I
HEARD YOU CALL
THE TREE YOUR
JEWEL ONCE
BEFORE

AND I REMEMBERED!

The LORD OF THE FOREST covered in FEAR
The PRINCESS wore the crown freely. A curse meant for a KING would not affect her.

GO NOW! INTO YOUR GREAT FOREST, WHICH I HAVE
ALWAYS LOVED. I UNDERSTAND NOW THAT
WHAT MY FATHER DID TO YOUR TREE WAS WRONG,
SO I WILL NOT SEEK
REVENGE.

YOU,
OF ALL THE
CREATURES
IN THE
FOREST,
SHOULD KNOW
THAT
PLANTING
A **TREE**

INSTEAD OF
CUTTING
ONE
DOWN,
IS BEST.

SO NOW I
WILL PLANT
HARMONY
IN THE HOPE
THAT YOU
SHALL
SOW IT
WITH ME.

AS THE LORD OF THE FOREST FLED,

THE PRINCESS
USED HER NEW POWERS
TO HEAL THE WITCH.

WHY DID
YOU HELP
ME?

THE YOUNG PRINCESS
ASKED THE WITCH.

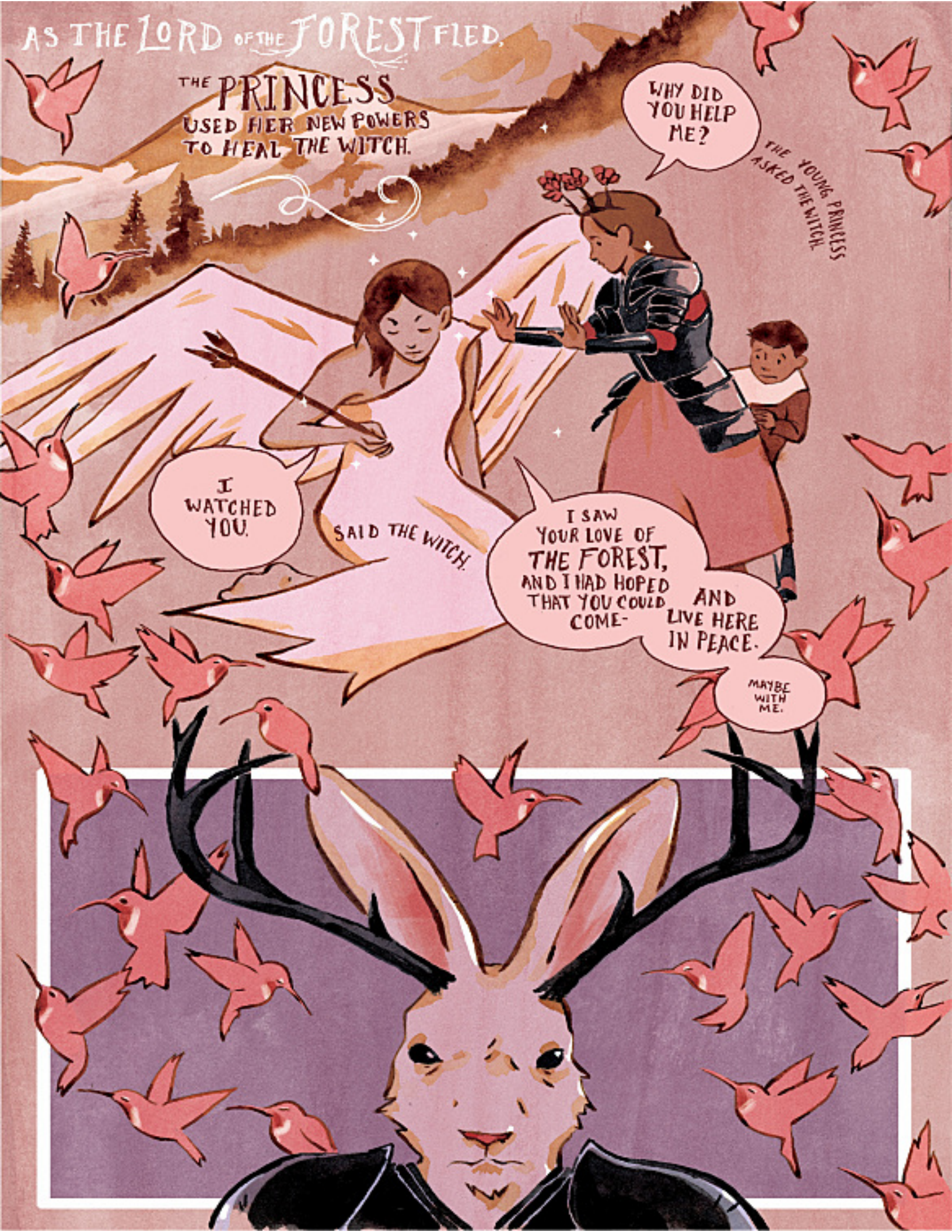
I
WATCHED
YOU.

SAID THE WITCH.

I SAW
YOUR LOVE OF
THE FOREST,
AND I HAD HOPED
THAT YOU COULD
COME-

AND
LIVE HERE
IN PEACE.

MAYBE
WITH ME.



I CANNOT
LIVE IN
THE FOREST.

LAMENTED THE
PRINCESS.

THE
CURSE
THAT WOULD
KILL A KING
ALSO BINDS
ME TO THE
THRONE.

ALTHOUGH
WE CAN'T GO BACK
TO THE FOREST,
PERHAPS TOGETHER
WE CAN MAKE IT SO
THAT NO MORE CHILDREN
WILL HAVE TO
BETRAY THEIR
FAMILIES.

IN ORDER
TO LOVE
WHAT WE
BOTH FIND
SO DEAR.

NOW HEALED,
THE WITCH FLEW THE YOUNG
PRINCESS AND HER BROTHER HOME.



THE
LORD OF
THE FOREST'S
CURSE RANG TRUE,
AND THE KINGDOM
WOULD NEVER AGAIN
HAVE A KING.

BUT
THE
PRINCESS
WAS THE FIRST,
AND YOUNGEST,
QUEEN
EVER TO RULE

WITH
THE
WITCH
WELCOMED BACK
INTO THE KINGDOM
TO WATCH OVER
THEM ALL.

AND ALTHOUGH
THE LORD
WAS NEVER HEARD
FROM AGAIN,
THIS TIME
HE WAS NOT
FORGOTTEN.

ON
HARVEST DAY,
all the children
would adorn themselves
with antlers made of
BRANCHES
and go from house
to house asking for
a small treat,
TO SHOW APPRECIATION.

The End.



*A new tale spun next month,
presented in landscape format...*

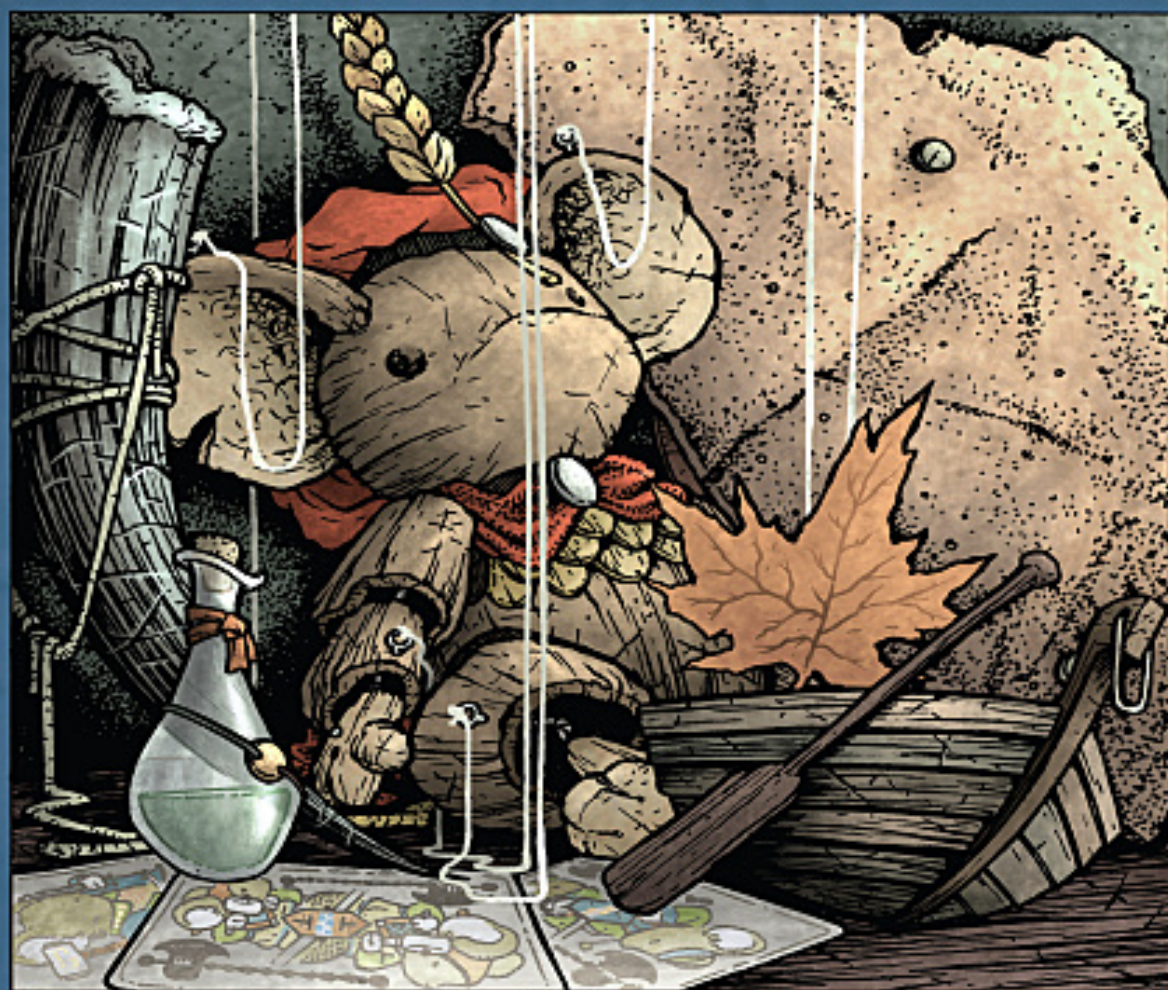


the
NOW WITCH

written and illustrated by KYLA VANDERKLUGT

Russ Manning Award For Most Promising Newcomer.
Three-Time Eisner Award Winner.
Four Harvey Award Nominations.

MOUSE GUARD™ BALDWIN THE BRAVE AND OTHER TALES



DAVID PETERSEN

A Stunning Collection Featuring
Two Brand-New *Mouse Guard* Stories

NOVEMBER 2014



ARCHAIA
WWW.ARCHAIA.COM

MOUSE GUARD is a trademark and © 2014 David Petersen. All rights reserved.



the
MAGIC SWAN GOOSE
and the **LORD OF THE FOREST**

written and illustrated by S. M. VIDAURRI

With her brother kidnapped by a witch, a young princess searches for him deep in the mysterious forest beyond the castle where the Lord of the Forest, an armor-clad spirit who watches over the wilderness, awaits. The princess must rely on her wits to discover who she can trust, lest her family be cursed forever.

Jim Henson's
THE STORYTELLER
Tale One of Two *Witches*



ARCHAIA

Jim Henson
THE JIM HENSON COMPANY